

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 218525

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PQG, US, GE, GW

SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF FRG, UK, FRANCE ON US-GDR RELATIONS

REF: (A) BERLIN 6091; (B) BONN 14472; (C) BERLIN 7168

1. WE HAVE GIVEN CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT TO THE POINTS MADE
IN REFTELS REGARDING THE BEST WAY OF KEEPING THE FRG, THE
UK, AND FRANCE INFORMED ABOUT SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN
OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GDR. ALL THREE ALLIES, BUT
ESPECIALLY THE FRG, HAVE AN INTEREST IN THAT RELATIONSHIP,
AND WE SHALL WANT TO KEEP THEM FULLY IN THE PICTURE THROUGH
TIMELY, CONTINUING BRIEFINGS.

2. EMBASSY BERLIN SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN BRIEFING THE
FRG. EMBASSY BONN, PARTIALLY FOR REASONS OUTLINED IN
REF B, PARA 4, SHOULD FOLLOW UP BY BRIEFING THE FOREIGN
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OFFICE THROUGH THE BONN GROUP, OR BILATERALLY AS
APPROPRIATE. ALL THESE BRIEFINGS IN BERLIN AND IN BONN
SHOULD BE CONDUCTED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO REASSURE THE
WEST GERMANS THAT WE ARE ROUTINELY KEEPING THEM INFORMED
AND NOT TO STIMULATE ANXIETY THAT WE MIGHT BE PREPARING
THEM PSYCHOLOGICALLY FOR A FUNDAMENTAL SHIFT IN OUR
POLICY TOWARDS THE GDR. CARE SHOULD ALSO BE TAKEN NOT TO

CONVEY THE IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE IN ANY WAY SEEKING
FRG APPROVAL OF THE STEPS WE DO TAKE.

3. AS TO THE BRITISH AND FRENCH, EMBASSY BERLIN AGAIN
SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN PROVIDING BRIEFINGS. THERE
ARE, HOWEVER, FEW ASPECTS OF US-GDR RELATIONS THAT DO
NOT AFFECT, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, ALLIED RIGHTS AND
RESPONSIBILITIES IN BERLIN AND THE FUTURE OF THAT CITY.
IT REMAINS FULLY APPROPRIATE, THEREFORE, FOR EMBASSY
BONN TO KEEP THE BONN GROUP APPRISED OF THE CURRENT
STATE OF US-GDR RELATIONS. IN DOING SO, IT SHOULD OF
COURSE BE SENSITIVE TO THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY
AMBASSADOR BOLEN IN REF C.

4. AS A GENERAL RULE, REPORTS RELATING TO US-GDR AND
FRG-GDR RELATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE BERLIN, BONN, USBER,
LONDON AND PARIS AMONG THE ADDRESSEES.
VANCE

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